

ALL IN COLOUR - MAKES LEARNING A JOY

Once Upon a Time

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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The Water Babies

Tom, the brave little chimney-sweep, is ill-treated by his grumpy master, Mr. Grimes, and runs away from Harthover House. He bangs his head and is so feverish that he does not really know what he is doing when he goes into a stream and sinks down into the water.



1. Now comes the most wonderful part of this wonderful story. When Tom woke up he found himself swimming about in the stream, much smaller than he had been before and having round his neck a set of gills, which he mistook for a lace frill until he pulled at it and hurt himself. He found he could breathe even in the water and made up his mind that they were part of his new self and best left alone. Tom was now amphibious, which means he could live in or out of water.



2. What was better still, was that he was clean for the first time in his life. He did not remember ever having been dirty, or of being hungry, or beaten, or being sent up dark chimneys. Tom was very happy. He had nothing to do now but enjoy himself and look at all the pretty things which are to be seen in a world of clear, cool water. But Tom, sad to say, was very naughty.

3. He came to a pool full of little trout. He began teasing them and trying to catch them, until they jumped clean out of the water in their fright. He even got on to the back of one of them and had a ride for a few moments until the frightened trout flipped him off and flashed away. He tormented the poor water creatures until they were all afraid and got out of his way.



4. He came to a caddis fly larva, a grub which hopes one day to turn into a caddis fly, but protects itself while waiting by building itself a coat made of tiny sticks, leaves and shells. Tom had never seen a caddis before, and knocked off the sticks and shells to see what was inside. What a shame! No wonder the caddis was angry.



5. Tom swam away and popped his head out of the water, where he saw a most elegant and slender creature with four great wings and big eyes that shone like ten thousand diamonds. "I'm a dragonfly," it said, whirling round the head of a young deer which had come to the water for a drink. "Please don't fly away," said Tom. "I have nobody to play with. If you stay, I promise that I will not try and catch you."



6. But the dragonfly went and it was forgotten in the next few moments, for Tom heard the strangest noise up the stream, a cooing and grunting and whining and squeaking. He looked up and there he saw a sight as strange as the noise—a great brown ball rolling over and over down the stream, seeming to be made of soft brown fur. Yet it was not a ball at all.



7. Tom took the neatest little header into the water and went to see what it was. When he came near, the ball turned out to be four or five otters, rolling, diving, twisting and wrestling in the most charming fashion that was ever seen. When the biggest of them saw Tom, she darted from the rest and cried out sharply, "Quick, children, here is something to eat."



8. Poor Tom slipped down between the water-lily roots as fast as he could. "Come away, children," said the otter in disgust, after taking a closer look at Tom. "It's not worth eating after all. It's only a nasty newt." "I am not a newt," said Tom. "Newts have tails." "I say you are a newt," snapped the mother otter. "You are not fit food for me and my children, so you may stay there till the salmon come and eat you."



9. One evening, about a week later, it grew suddenly dark. Thunder roared and lightning flashed and rain came down as though poured from buckets. Soon the stream rose, churned into foam and rushed down towards the sea, full of beetles and sticks and straws and odds and ends. Among the odds and ends was Tom.



10. By the flashes of lightning, Tom saw a new sight—all the bottom of the stream alive with great eels, hurrying past him so fiercely and wildly that he was quite frightened. As they hurried past, Tom could hear them saying to each other, "We must run, we must run. Down to the sea." "Wait for me," pleaded Tom.



11. But the eels went on and, coming from the other way, Tom saw two big fish, shining silver from head to tail and with grand hooked noses. "Oh, don't hurt me," Tom cried. "Ah," said one of the salmon. "I see what you are, my little dear. I have met creatures like you before and only last night they warned us of nets placed in the river to catch us." "Then there ARE other water babies to play with," said Tom. "How wonderful!"

Will Tom find the other water babies? More of this lovely story next week.



1. Birds have wings covered with feathers, with which they fly. There are several different ways in which birds can fly. They can glide, or soar up into the air, hover above the ground, or fly by flapping their wings up and down, as most small birds do.



2. For hundreds of years people have been trying to fly but only in this century have we been able to make machines which will carry us through the air. The jet flies very fast through the sky, but the helicopter flies slowly near the ground.

Here are our "Allsorts" pages, in which we show you all sorts of different things. This week we show you:

All Sorts of



5. Only in the last few years have space-ships been developed, which can carry men far away from the Earth, right to the Moon. They fly at tremendous speeds and need very powerful engines to push them away from the Earth. They use rockets as engines.



6. Long before there were aeroplanes, daring people flew in baskets, suspended from big, gas-filled balloons. They were carried along by the wind so they never knew where they would go, or would land.



3. Gliders look like aeroplanes but they have no engines to drive them along. Instead, they glide, using the currents of air above the ground to carry them. They can only make fairly short flights, and have to be helped to get off the ground.



4. Bats are mammals, not birds, so they do not have wings with feathers, as birds have. But the webs of skin stretched over their arm and finger bones make fine wings and enable them to fly around at night in search of food.

Ways of Flying



7. The winged seeds of the Sycamore are easily carried along by the wind. This means that there will not be too many Sycamore trees growing up in one spot. The light seeds spin round and round as the wind carries them along.



8. Flying fish get their name because they have big fins which look like large wings. They take great leaps out of the water and glide along with their big fins outspread for short distances, just as if they were flying.



BREER RABBIT

Sister Cow and the Man in the Moon. By Barbara Hayes.

NOW Sister Cow was mighty mean. Mighty mean she was indeed. Time after time Brer Rabbit had asked her to spare him some milk for his baby rabbits, but every time Sister Cow had answered:

"Be off with you, Brer Rabbit. Don't come bothering round me after milk. You and your baby rabs can do without."

Then one evening Sister Cow noticed Brer Rabbit looking up into the sky at the full moon and heaving mighty big sighs and muttering, "What a waste!"

"What's a waste, Brer Rabbit, what's a waste? And why are you sighing like that?" asked Sister Cow.

So Brer Rabbit looked up at the moon and he said:

"Well, I have heard the old folk tell that living up there in the moon is the Man in the Moon. And the old folk said, they did, that the Man in the Moon was mighty clever at making cheese. And the old folk said, they did, that if, on the night of the full moon, a large bowl of milk was left standing right in the light of the moon,

the Man in the Moon would see it and come down and turn it into the most delicious cheese that ever was. And I think it does seem a waste that no one is putting out any milk for him."

Well, Sister Cow pricked up her ears when she heard that. Sister Cow quite liked a bite of cheese now and then. It went down well with all that grass that she munched.

So, after Brer Rabbit had gone, Sister Cow put a big bowlful of her milk out in the light of the moon.

Then she looked up at the full moon and said, "Come on, old Man in the Moon. Do your best."

Then Sister Cow stood and waited, but the only people who came along were Brer Rabbit and his children and hidden behind their backs were all the buckets and jugs they could carry.

"Hide in these bushes," Brer Rabbit said to the baby rabs.

Then he sauntered up to Sister Cow.

"Oh, I forgot one thing," he smiled. "The old folk said, they did, that the Man in the Moon is very shy and he won't come if anyone is watching. You must come over here and hide your eyes, Sister Cow, then the Man in the Moon will come."

Sister Cow was very suspicious.

"I will only hide my eyes if you will come with me and hide your eyes, too," she said to Brer Rabbit. "I know you and your tricks."

"Why, Sister Cow, how can you say such things?" said Brer Rabbit. "Fancy thinking I would trick you."

And he went with Sister Cow to a corner of the field and they closed their eyes.

Presently they heard a—slop!—from the direction of the milk.

"What's that?" said Sister Cow.

"Don't look!" gasped Brer Rabbit. "It might be the Man in the Moon and you would frighten him away."

Sister Cow wanted to look very much, but she squeezed her eyes more tightly shut so as not to be tempted.

Slop!—again a noise came from the bucket of milk.

"Ah," said Brer Rabbit, "that's just the sound a wooden spoon would make."

Then there was another—slop!—and another and another and then lots of little sloppety-slop-slops.

Of course, it was really the sound of the baby rabs taking the milk away in their jugs and buckets, but Sister Cow thought it was the Man in the Moon turning the milk into cheese.

At last, all the sloppety-slopping stopped. Brer Rabbit and Sister Cow opened their eyes and went back to the bowl. It was empty.

"Where's the cheese?" asked Sister Cow.

"Cheese?" said Brer Rabbit. "Why, up in the moon with the Man in the Moon, of course. The old folk didn't say anything about him leaving it behind down here. He always takes it back with him."

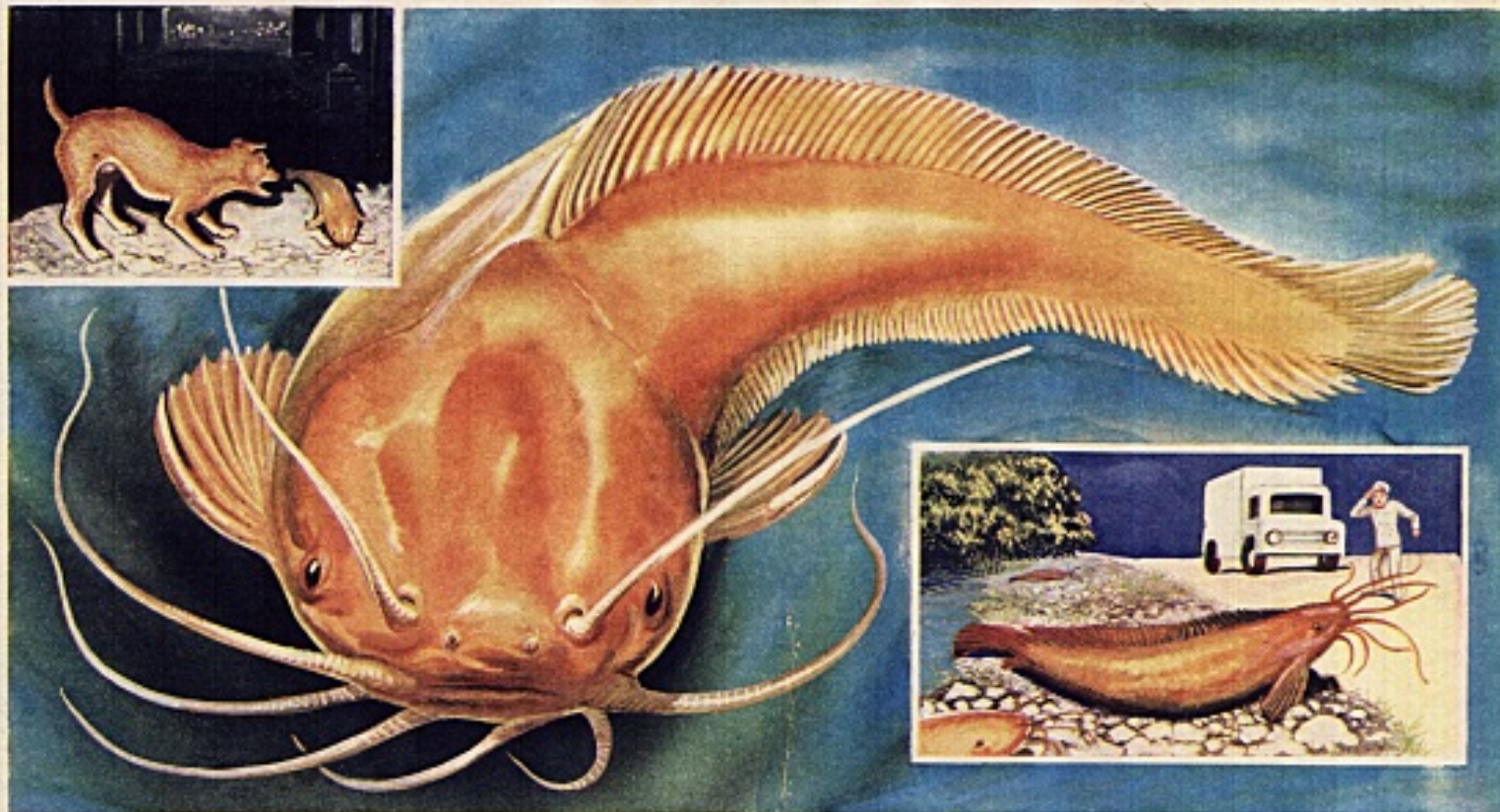
And Brer Rabbit skipped off home before Sister Cow could chase him.

Back home, there was lots of lovely milk. And we know where it came from, don't we?

Another Brer Rabbit story next week.



Well, Fancy That!



In Florida, U.S.A., a watchman found his dog barking at a strange fish. Soon, stories were going around that there were catfish attacking dogs. The truth was that some small catfish which were on sale in a local shop, got out of their tank and walked away. They quickly spread and multiplied until they became a great problem. The catfish got into ponds, where they soon ate up the other fish. If the ponds dried up they either buried themselves in the mud or trekked off to find a new source of water in which they could live. At last, to get

rid of the catfish, the water in many of the ponds was poisoned, but the catfish responded by climbing out of the water and walking away. These remarkable fish can live both on land and water because they have both lungs and gills. They are able to adapt themselves even more easily, because they have a spine on their front fins to support them and they can push themselves along with the tail. This means that they can move around from place to place on the land.

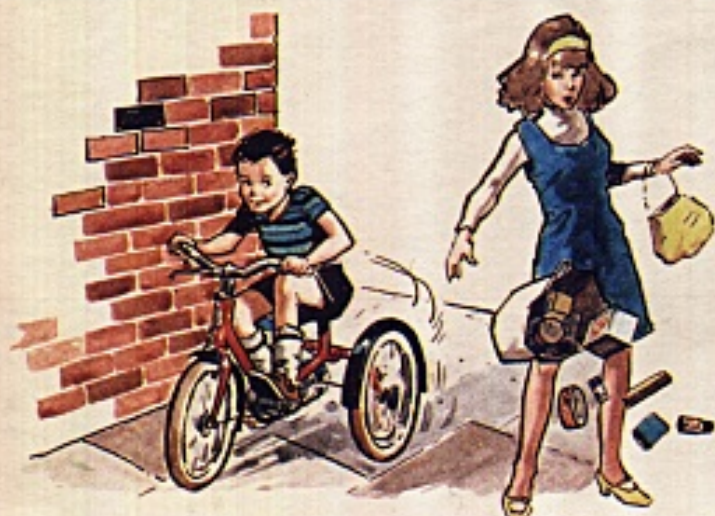


In Sapporo, Japan, a Snow Festival is held every year. Huge models of giants, many kinds of animals, trains, houses and even large buildings are sculptured out of snow. To make these snow sculptures, wooden frames are needed and students and soldiers work very hard putting up huge wooden frames for the Festival. Then snow is packed around the frames to be carved into models. Every night the sculptures are lit up. When the Festival is over, they are all chopped down again.

Hard work does not always achieve the best results. In the Montana gold mining camps a man who was known as Lazy Dan always sat around watching the others work. The miners grew tired of this and they gave him a plot of land and ordered him to work on it. The plot of land which they gave him brought Lazy Dan a fortune of five million dollars.



Ronnie Wrong and Richard Right



1. Ronnie Wrong does not think about other people. Racing round a corner on his pavement-cycle, he almost knocks into a lady with a large basket of things from the supermarket. She has to jump out of Ronnie's way and upsets some things from her basket.



2. Ronnie rides on without even a glance round to see what has happened. The surprised and startled shopper is glad when Richard Right comes along a few moments later. Richard stops and shows his good manners by helping her pick up the fallen groceries.



3. When Ronnie Wrong goes into the country he thinks it is a wonderful place, with lots of things to be seen in fields. But in his thoughtless way he decides that the quickest way to get into a field is to make a hole in a hedge. This is a wrong thing to do.



4. The right thing to do is to walk along the hedge until you come to a gate. Richard has been taught to do this and, after all, it is only good manners. People living in towns would not like a farmer to come along and break down their garden fence.



5. Ronnie Wrong uses the gate to get out of the field, but he walks away and leaves it wide open. Cows and sheep will wander out and, apart from being in danger if they reach a road, they will cause the farmer a lot of trouble to collect them later.



6. You should always remember that farm-gates are there for a good reason. The farmer, who has paid to have them put up, will not mind you using them, but he expects you to show good manners by closing them after you, as Richard Right is doing.

This is a Memory Test. When you have read the story turn to page 16 and answer a few questions about it.

The Happy Pedlar

THERE were a lot of people in the happy family living in the large old farmhouse—mother, father, children, babes, grandmother and grandfather.

The big kitchen seemed full of them, but they were always glad to make room for one more when the pedlar man arrived. He came every Friday morning on his way to market in the nearby town, balancing on his head a tray full of beautiful objects he had made from plaster of Paris. These he hoped to sell in the market.

He was a happy pedlar man with a smiling face that brought a special bit of sunshine into the farmhouse. All of the family were glad to see him—grandmother most of all. She loved riddles and the pedlar man always had a few new ones to ask her.

"Ah," he chuckled, sniffing the smell of cooking. "I think there'll be tasty roast chicken on the table today."

"Well guessed," nodded the grandmother. "And there might be a cold wing for you when you call in on the way back tonight."

"That would be fine," the pedlar man said. "Which reminds me of a riddle. How many birds have four wings?"

"Two, of course!"

"Right first time," said the laughing pedlar man. "I could see you were extra bright today as soon as I came in through that door. But can you tell me what goes through a door, yet never enters a room?"

This time the grandmother had to shake her head.

"The answer is—a keyhole," the pedlar man told her. "Now what can I bring back from the market for all of you?"

The children wanted sweets, mother wanted some soap, father wanted a collar-stud, grandfather wanted some pipe tobacco—and grandmother wanted something that she asked for in a riddle.

"Just bring me back a few of those things that have eyes but cannot see," she said.

Away went the happy pedlar to market, and in the evening he came back with an empty tray on his head, sweets, soap, collar-stud, pipe tobacco—and a packet of six needles for grandmother, which made the right answer to the riddle she had asked.

Did you guess it?





The Goblin and the Miller



1. Once there was a miller who had a goblin living in his mill. Normally this would not have mattered, but the goblin was a mischievous little fellow who loved playing pranks and the miller often found his sacks of flour overturned or emptied.



2. Even worse, the goblin sometimes stopped the mill working by sitting on the sails and holding them still. The miller grew more and more cross and at last he decided to do something about it. One night, he hid and waited for the goblin to appear.



3. The goblin played most of his pranks at night and, sure enough, he soon came searching for mischief. Taking him by surprise, the miller captured him and popped him inside a bag of flour.



4. Next morning, the flour was delivered to the baker, who tipped it out into a bowl and began to make bread. Before the poor goblin could call out for help, his mouth was full of dough.



5. He was kneaded and pounded and ended up in the middle of a loaf which was put in the oven to bake. Luckily, fire does not hurt goblins, as it does humans, but even so he had an uncomfortable time. When it was baked, the loaf was sold to a countrywoman.



6. The countrywoman cut up the loaf for tea and she had the shock of her life when the goblin stuck his head out. But all her children were delighted. "Look, a bread goblin," they cried. "Let's spread him with jam." The goblin was horrified.



7. He leapt off the table and ran out of the house as fast as his legs could carry him. Covered in bread and jam, he sped down the road which led back to the mill. He could hardly wait to get back there and make his peace with the miller.



8. The miller roared with laughter when he heard the goblin's sorry tale. "That will teach you that it's better to live peacefully with people," he said. The goblin agreed, so the miller let him return to the mill and from that day they were good friends.

Another delightful story in "Once Upon A Time" next week called "The Fairy Child".



Beautiful Paintings

If you are making a collection of the lovely pictures printed each week in "Once Upon A Time" you will be delighted with this one. It was painted by Francis Edmonds and is well worth cutting out to hang on a wall or for a scrapbook. The title of it is "The Windmill" and it tells its own story . . . a little boy is delighted when an uncle comes to visit his parents and finds

time to carve out a windmill from a few pieces of firewood. You can see that it is a cleverly-made little toy, for the man does not have to blow hard to send the windmill spinning round. The little boy can hardly wait for it to be given to him, so that he can rush out and show his friends how it spins in the wind. Isn't he a lucky boy to have such a clever uncle ?

King Henry the Fifth

When he was a boy, Henry the Fifth was known to his family and friends as Prince Hal. After coming to the throne of England, he wanted to become the King of France as well, so he sailed across the English Channel with an army and fought the French at a village called Agincourt. In that now-famous battle, the English archers had a wonderful victory over the French knights. King Henry the Fifth died in 1422 at the age of 35.

Join the dots carefully and neatly from numbers 1 to 60 and you will draw the kind of ship King Henry used to sail to France.





The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

This week: The Double-headed Daisy. By Barbara Hayes.

Life was very peaceful in the country. The sun shone and the flowers bloomed and the grass grew, and Winifred, the country mouse, and her boyfriend, Bertie, were very happy with their life.

They were especially happy one afternoon, when they took a picnic down to Happy Brook Meadow.

"Don't the wild flowers look lovely?" smiled Winifred. And Bertie looked hard at the wild flowers and he said: "Do you know, Winnie, my love, I have never seen a daisy quite like this one before. Why, it has two centres, like a sort of double egg yolk."

Winifred stared at the daisy and she was sure she had never seen anything like it before.

It was a new sort of daisy.

Well, to cut a long story short, Bertie went and told the farmer and he told some important people in town and in no time at all lots of people called "botanists", who are very interested in types of flowers, came dashing down to Happy Brook Meadow to look at the daisy.

The story got into all the papers, and Winifred's and Bertie's pictures were put in the newspapers, as the people who had first seen the daisy.

Well, I don't need to tell you who was green—just absolutely green—with envy when she saw Winifred's photograph on the front pages of the papers.

It was Stephanie, the town mouse, of course.

"Oh, isn't it infuriating?" she gasped. "That wretched Winifred, who doesn't care tuppence about being well known, is always managing to get her photograph into the paper."

She glared at her boyfriend, Nigel, as if it was his fault.

Then Stephanie glanced back at the photograph of Winifred.

"And just look at the clothes she is wearing!" she grumbled. "One of her dreadful hand-knitted jumpers and a home-made skirt."

"Now, if it had been me, I should have worn one of my smart dresses and the photograph would have been really worth while."

At last, Nigel managed to get a word in.

"Well, Stevie, old thing!" he said. "You can't expect to discover double-headed daisies if you live in the middle of town. Would you like to go and live in the country for a bit, like Winifred?"

Stephanie glared at him. "You double-headed block-head!" she gasped. "Stop suggesting stupid things like living in the country. You know how I hate it."

But when Stephanie thought it over, she did think that a visit to the country, just for a short time, might be a good idea.

"I might get myself into a newspaper photograph with Winifred," she said.

So Stephanie put on her best dress and made Nigel

fetch his car, and they tootled off into the country to Winifred's little cottage.

Now, down in the country, Winifred and Bertie weren't feeling so happy any more. Instead of being able to lead their usual peaceful quiet life, they were being badgered all the time by newspaper men and botanists keeping on and on about the double-headed daisy.

"It's getting that I can't have a cup of tea in peace," sighed Winifred.

"And it's getting that I can't eat a bite of your nice home-made chocolate cake, without having to gulp it down before I have enjoyed it properly, just so that I can answer another of their silly questions," grumbled Bertie.

So when Stephanie and Nigel came bursting into Winifred's little cottage, Bertie, for once, was very pleased to see them.

"Ah, our Stephanie!" he said. "You like reporters and newspaper photographs and all that towny fuss. Please talk to the reporters and say that you noticed the double-headed daisy, too—a long time ago, when you came down for a visit. Then they will all be interested in you instead of us."

Well, Stephanie didn't need asking twice. Soon, everyone was fussing round her and Winifred and Bertie were left in peace. It was lovely.

Then, at last, when all the fuss was finally over, Winifred said to Stephanie:

"Would you like to come for a quiet walk through the fields and look at all the wild flowers?"

But Stephanie laughed her towny laugh and said:

"No thanks! Nigel, drive me back to town at once. I only pretended to be interested in wild flowers to get my name in the papers."

And she whirled off back to the bright lights of town.

"Fancy liking the busy town instead of the peaceful country!" sighed Winifred. "Still, it's lucky our Stephanie is as she is, because I'm quite glad of her help sometimes."

Here are the questions from the story "The Happy Pedlar" on page 10. See how many you can get right before looking back to check your answers:

1. What were the pedlar's models made from?
2. How many birds have four wings?
3. What did the children want him to bring from market?
4. What did mother want?

ARE YOU MISSING SOME COPIES OF "ONCE UPON A TIME" ?

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Sinbad the Sailor



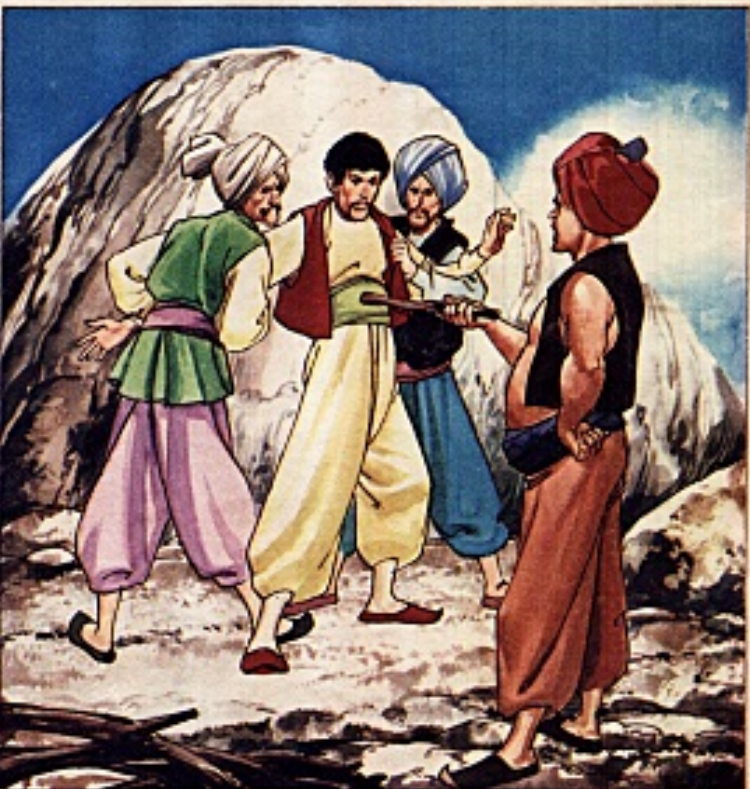
1. When the giant eagle carried the piece of raw meat out of the deep valley it also lifted up Sinbad the Sailor, who was tied to the meat by his long turban-cloth. At the top of the high cliff was the eagle's nest and Sinbad landed on the edge of it.



2. Darting to one side, he was trying to get free of the tightly-knotted cloth round his waist when he heard the eagle give its fierce cry of alarm. Some men appeared, scrambling towards the nest, where the young eagles were making a meal of the raw meat.



3. With angry cries at being disturbed, the parent eagle and its two young ones flew away. The men then rushed to the piece of raw meat, which they had thrown down into the Valley of Diamonds, hoping that some of the gems would stick to it.



4. Sinbad made himself known, but was surprised when the leader of the men ordered the two others to seize him. "He is a thief, intending to steal any diamonds we collect by this method of using the eagles to bring up the meat," he said. "He shall die."



5. "Not so fast," said Sinbad. "I was down in the valley and I picked up a pocketful of diamonds," he went on. "Take me to a dealer and I will see what they are worth to the benefit of us all." Soon after, Sinbad showed the gems to a rich dealer.



6. The dealer offered a huge sum of money, for the glittering diamonds were worth a fortune. The men who had captured Sinbad wanted to share it but Sinbad waved them aside. "All I want is enough to buy a ship so that I can return to Baghdad," he said.



7. The diamond-hunters were delighted at this bargain. "You are a very generous man, Sinbad," they said. "May the best of good luck be with you always." "I hope so," replied Sinbad. "In my travels I have been in great danger, but have won in the end."

8. A splendid ship was bought for him and the diamond-hunters themselves sailed as crew. "We will settle down in Persia as rich men for the rest of our lives," they said. "What will you do, Sinbad?" "I will look for more adventures," he replied.



The WISE OLD OWL

Knows all the answers



1. How long can a whale stay under water?

"This depends upon what kind of whale it is. The Blue whale can stay down below the water for about a quarter of an hour but then it has to come up to the surface to take a deep breath, for whales are mammals and do not breathe through gills as fish do. However, the Sperm whale, which feeds on squids far below the surface, can stay under water for an hour or so."

The wise old owl is here to answer many interesting questions for you.



2. When were knives and forks invented?

"Sharp pieces of bone or shells with sharp edges were used in earliest times. The first metal knives were made about 5,000 years ago of copper and bronze and later of iron and steel. The first forks were brought to Britain from Italy by a traveller in 1611. The word fork comes from the Latin word furca."



3. What is the biggest bed in the world?

"The great bed of Ware, a huge four-poster bed built in 1580. It can now be seen in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. The bed is 10 feet 8½ inches wide, 11 feet 1 inch long and 8 feet 9 inches high. In those days, warming pans filled with hot cinders were put into the bed to warm it up on cold nights."



4. What does "blowing your own trumpet" mean?

"It means that the person referred to is being boastful. It is said to have originated from the herald, who blew a trumpet to announce his proud master's entry on the tournament field."



5. What was a clipper ship?

"Developed in the United States, the ship was designed for fast sailing and the expression 'going at a clip' is said to account for the name. The 'Cutty Sark' was a famous clipper."